

1019



Justice Society of America

The DCU is a little bit safer place now, because the Justice Society is back in action.

Okay, it's not exactly the same roster that comprised the Golden Age Justice Society, nor is it the Silver Age Justice Society as featured in all those classic JLA/JSA team-ups—nor, for that matter, is it the most recent incarnation of the JSA as featured in the eponymous title. Instead, it's a team that is a logical extension of all those groups, with links to each.

What Geoff Johns, Dale Eaglesham, and cover artist Alex Ross have created in *Justice Society of America* is a true amalgam of everything that the Justice Society has been, paving the way for what they will become. And you can rest assured that it's going to be a wild and unpredictable journey!

For star writer Geoff Johns, the opportunity to relaunch the world's first superhero team was irresistible. "I have a passion for the characters and the team, and I have a lot more stories to tell about the Justice Society," said Johns, who originally co-wrote (and later wrote on his own after co-writer David Goyer left) the exploits of the team beginning with *JSA* #3 in 1999.

What led to the decision to relaunch the book as *Justice Society of America* rather than continuing *JSA*, which was rapidly approaching its 100th issue? "As the discussions were going on, and we knew that *Justice League of America* was going to be relaunching with a new #1, Steve Wacker and I felt that we call the book *JSA* anymore, because it would feel old, since *JLA* was gone. So, we talked about changing the title, but realized that we couldn't do it until its 'brother book' launched, and *Justice League* wasn't going to launch until July. So we talked some more, and discussed relaunching the book with the new name after *Justice League* launched. That way, we could capitalize on the new direction, and be more in sync with *Justice League*, since Brad and I had talked about a crossover already.

"I always wanted to write *JSA* #100. Trust me—once we hit #75, it was in my sights... But the cool thing about *JSA* now is that it's been successful enough to last since 1999.

DC's *always* going to have a *JSA* book. Even if they cancel it, they're always going to relaunch it, just like *Teen Titans*, or any of the other titles that have a built-in audience. *JSA* has become one of those titles for DC."

For Johns, it is the "society" aspect of *Justice Society of America* that makes the book distinctive. "There are so many superheroes in comics and in the DC Universe that it really is a society, and I want to touch on that—what's it like, what's the responsibility that goes along with being a superhero? The Justice Society concentrates on bringing heroes into the fold, and—as they say in the first issue—making a real society of superhumans, and trying to make that society adhere to a moral code and be better... The Justice Society is seen from the inside as almost an ideal that they want to create for other people to look up to."

As Johns sees it, the Justice Society "are the guys we should probably act like. The Justice Society's motto now is, 'The world needs better good guys'... and it's true! The Justice Society's here to deliver them." Even the biggest stars of the DCU respect the *JSA*. "Superman, Batman and Wonder Woman come to Alan, Jay and Ted and ask what they can do to help. The three of them have done so much for Superman, Batman and Wonder Woman, and they come to the Society with an offer to help them out with what they want to do with the team.

"We really want to make it such that the Justice Society of America is the place that everyone comes from or has ties to.



since the '40s. For older readers, I think it's comforting to know that some of these heroes still kick ass and still have a place in the DC Universe.

"On the flipside of that, I think it's good to bring in the new characters—a new Dr. Mid-Nite and Mr. Terrific and Stargirl—and let them grow and find a fanbase, and hopefully we'll do that with the new series and the new characters coming in..."

While Johns has a very heavy workload at DC, including co-writing the weekly series 52, *Justice Society of America* "is obviously my favorite book to write—they're some of my favorite characters in comics, and to see people want to read the book is so gratifying!"

One new character who has instantly attracted fan attention is Maxine Hunkel, the exuberant teenager who is thrilled to be a part of a team that can accept her as a super-powered teenager. "Maxine is my favorite new character that we've brought on board" Johns said. "She has a very endearing quality. There's something appealing about having a character

who's a fan-girl, who tries *too* hard. And I love how Dale designed her—I think she's cute as a button!" Rest assured, Maxine will play a major role in upcoming storylines!

And as if the premiere issue needed another hook, the final page of *Justice Society of America* #1 offered something relatively unseen in comics: a preview of major events that will unfold in the first year of the series. Readers see a panel from the first *JSA*/JLA crossover story, which will begin in *Justice Society* #5; they get a glimpse of Dawnstar, a Legionnaire who'll play a role in the series; they see the apparent resurrection of the body of Kal-L ("it's not a dream and not a zombie!" Johns promises), and in the final panel (painted by Alex Ross) readers see the Kingdom Come Superman... and yes, a Kingdom Come story, co-plotted by Ross, is in the works! "That's the last exclamation point of

...And Justice for All

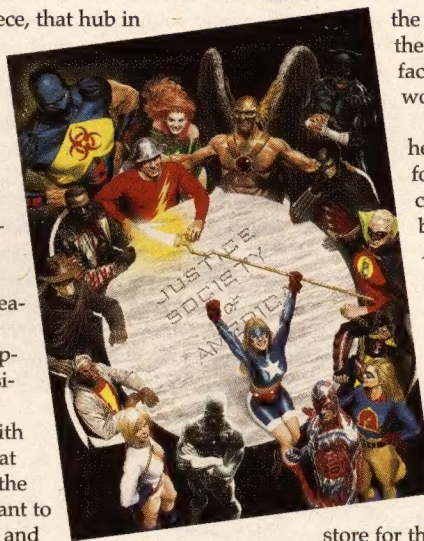


We're trying to make it that centerpiece, that hub in the DCU, and a lot of the main through lines of big stories coming up are going to go through the book coming up. We want it to be the spinal column of the DC Universe."

As the series begins, there are ominous references to events in the DCU that have yet to be witnessed—happenings such as World War III. While these events are influential in the creation of a new *JSA*, "the real reason for the membership drive goes back to the DCU and what's been happening—heroes have acted irresponsibly, and they have been for a while. Now, after 52 and the events of 52 with the Everyman project—and even what came before—Jay and Alan feel that the heroes have gotten off track. They want to offer stability and the choice to learn and grow to heroes. That's what's at the root of the move to expand the Society, and make a new model for what the Society is going to be."

As a result, rather than a small, tightly-focused roster, the *JSA* will be a larger group. "We went through the roster to decide who to include and we couldn't find any that we *didn't* want to use!" Johns said. "There were a couple that we wanted to include but couldn't, like Captain Marvel and the Spectre and Dr. Fate and Mary Marvel—but it never was really a matter of cutting anyone out of the team, because we wanted this to be a big team, a real *society*, and we'll rotate the spotlight to make sure that all the characters are properly served.

"I think it's a great collection of personalities on the team, including some of the new characters, who are really fun to get to know. But some of these characters have been around



the book—wow!" Johns said. "Alex painting the last panel of a DCU book is a big deal—in fact, that might have been his first interior work in a continuity-based DCU book."

It's obvious that Johns is enjoying what he's doing with *Justice Society*. "I left *JSA* for a year after being on it for six years and I came back; the only reason to come back is because I think I can make the book better. As I meet these characters again and get involved in their lives again, I feel personally attached to this series... I will say that this book is the one book I can see myself working on for another hundred issues."

Readers can join in on the excitement from the beginning with *Justice Society of America* #1, a \$3.99 extra-length comic in stores now—and then keep coming back for the next ninety-nine months to see what else Johns has in

store for them!

by Cliff Biggers & Matt Brady

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

Rieber Redux

Last week, CSN talked with writer John Ney Rieber about his new series *Sandman: Sleep of Reason*. While *Sleep of Reason* marks Rieber's return to Vertigo after a lengthy absence, he already has plans in the works for other Vertigo projects. "James Owen [Starchild creator] and I have been working on a pitch and sample scenes for a project we'd like to do with Vertigo—a contemporary retelling of a DC cult classic story. Something fun and contemporary. Going back to the first page of the first issue—well, about twenty pages before the first page of the first issue, actually—and going from there.

"But that's one of those labors of something resembling love that we're doing because we want to... certainly not because anyone's asked us to do it. The way we're approaching the project, it'd probably take us twelve issues to retell six issues' worth of the original material...which is probably the most awkward lead-in to a pitch that I can imagine, these days. And James is so busy with so many projects over in bookland and movieland and so on at the moment that his hands are sizzling.

"I also have a pitch and sample scenes out at Vertigo for what you might call a post-apocalyptic *Romeo & Juliet* story that's been an obsession of mine for a couple years. It's about love and mutation and, umm...violence.

"And Eric and I would like to work together on something else. Well—I'd like to do something else with him, anyway!" Rieber joked. "One of the best parts about working on this project has been watching Eric's breakdowns and finished pages roll in. You think you have a decent sense of what he's going to throw at you, and then he blows you away. Time after time. In a year or two, they're going to have to give away protective goggles with the books he draws or paints, just to keep people's eyes from melting."

"Meanwhile, the stuff I'm working on

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that's a surer bet to see the light of day (or comic shops) within the next eighteen months is all stuff that I'm not supposed to talk about yet!" Rieber added.

Martin Nodell Passes

Golden Age illustrator Martin Nodell, creator of the Golden Age Green Lantern who has been a convention mainstay in recent years, passed away in early December at the age of 91. For many younger fans, Nodell was an accessible, engaging talent who served as a bridge to the Golden Age. Nodell and his wife Carrie (who passed away in April 2004) were always willing to share memories and stories while selling sketches to the many fans who flocked around their table at conventions.

While Nodell retired from comics many years ago, DC did bring him back for an occasional piece, including an Alan Scott story in *All-Star Squadron Annual* #3 and a short piece for *Tales of the Green Lantern Corps*. More recently, he illustrated a Green Lantern pastiche, the Beacon, for Big Bang Comics.

Ins & Outs

Out: The 3-D story by Geoff Johns, Richard Donner, & Adam Kubert that was slated to appear in *Action Comics* #847; instead, the story will move back a month to March's *Action Comics* #848, where it will appear in all its 3-D glory. Rather than delaying DC's oldest title by a month, the company has opted to enlist Dwayne McDuffie & Renato Guedes to produce a special new story with links to the Johns-Donner "Last Son" arc. Their tale, which will appear in *Action* #847, begins with Metropolis under siege from General Zod and the villainous hordes of the Phantom Zone. Against this backdrop, Clark Kent's friends and family watch in horror as Superman heads into danger against the greatest odds of his career.

Out: *Civil War* #6, which has been pushed back from December 20th release to January 4th, 2007 instead (so if you were wondering why you couldn't find it on the stands—well, now you know!). Once again, delays in the art are to blame for the lateness. Marvel has announced ambitious plans to get the seventh and final issue of the limited series into stores four weeks later, on January 31st—but if that changes, you'll hear about it in CSN.

In: Acclaimed writer Mike Carey has signed on to write *Enigma* for Virgin Comics. Created by acclaimed actor Nicolas Cage and his son West, *Enigma* is described by the publisher as "a voodoo-laced thriller that begins with a fiery rebellion on a Southern plantation during the Confederacy. The story moves quickly to the post-Katrina mean streets of New Orleans, where a veteran detective is trying to solve a series of murders connected by mysterious historical circumstances."

"I'm really excited to be on the book, and to be writing the first arc - in at the ground floor, so to speak," Carey said. "It's an incredibly strong premise built around a unique and compelling character, and it resonates with me on a lot of levels. Plus it's going to be a blast riffing creatively with Nicolas & Wes Cage and the amazing stable of talent that Virgin has put together."



In: A white-background variant cover edition of *Ultimate Spider-Man* #104, the final installment of the Brian Bendis-Mark Bagley Clone Saga. Similar to the ultra-collectible white variant cover edition of *Ultimate Spider-Man* #1, this 1-in-100-copies Mark Bagley cover will feature the Spider-Man figure art with no background or color-sidebar overlays.

Out: *The Walking Dead* #33, which has sold out from Image in less than 24 hours. With oodles of reorders sitting unfilled, Image has decided to send the book back to press; the second printing will feature a red background color rather than the blue background of the first printing. "A 24 hour sell-out is an incredible achievement," said

Image's Executive Director Eric Stephenson. "Robert Kirkman & Charlie Adlard really pushed the envelope with this issue... This horrifying issue is a great example of why this series is such a hit."

Out: *Immortal Iron Fist* #1, which has sold out of its print-run from Marvel. The company has no plans to do a second printing of the comic, although a Director's Cut expanded version is on the schedule for February release.

Out: The originally planned pre-Christmas release of *The Complete Invincible Library Volume One*, a massive hardcover reprinting the first 52 issues of Robert Kirkman's series, complete with oodles of bonus pages. The problem isn't lateness per se, since the books did arrive in time; instead, it's a quality control issue.

"When we decided to put this collection together, we envisioned a beautiful book that perfectly captures the spirit of *Invincible*," Image Executive Director Eric Stephenson said. "When we opened the package from the printer, everyone was extremely pleased. Once we began thumbing through the book, though, it was clear the binding was sub-par.



"There is significant damage that occurred during the binding process. Many of the pages towards the beginning and end of the book are ripping out of the spine. On the signed edition, the tipped-in signature sheet has been inserted incorrectly. Simply: the binding of the book is totally unacceptable.

"I couldn't with good conscience allow those to reach our fans. As much as I hated the idea of these books missing the holiday selling period there just wasn't another option. Given the unsavory choice between releasing a poor book on time and delaying the release of a perfect book, the best solution is clearly the latter. We will not ask our fans and retailers to accept faulty work. We apologize to our retailers and fans for this situation, but want everyone to know that we are taking every step we can to make sure that the corrected version of this book reaches them as quickly as possible. We can assure you that the book will be worth the wait."

Coming Comics—Marvel in March

The post-*Civil War* ramifications continue to shake things up in *Black Panther* #26, *Captain America* 326, *Fantastic Four* #544, *Iron Man* #16, *Ms. Marvel* #13, & *New Avengers* #28... but Marvel's not giving us any more details than that, so we'll all have to wait until March to find out just what's going on!

Peter Parker's a fugitive, hunted, on the run, his entire world shaken to its core. It's no wonder he's put on that black costume

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once again! But as bad as things are, they're about to get worse. See the grim saga unfold in *Amazing Spider-Man* #540 by J. Michael Straczynski & Ron Garney. (If you want to learn more about what's going on in Spidey's world, you can catch up with the *Spider-Man: Back in Black Handbook*, also slated for March release.)

The Silver Surfer chases down Tenebrous and Aegis, the two cosmic power-houses who took out Galactus! Plus, Firelord rounds up the Centurians—Annihilus's elite force that murdered his homeworld—and takes his revenge in *Annihilation: Heralds of Galactus—Silver Surfer & Firelord*.

Ord and his people of Breakworld lead the charge to take down the X-Men and S.W.O.R.D. in Joss Whedon & John Cassaday's *Astonishing X-Men* #21. And when this fight's over... Not everyone is coming back!

In Peter David, Robin Furth, Jae Lee, & Richard Isanove's *Stephen King's The Dark Tower: The Gunslinger Reborn* #2, Roland is forced to flee his home in Gilead with two young friends. But arriving in the supposedly friendly town of Hambry may be no safer, for the dreaded agents of Marten are abroad—The Coffin Hunters! Plus: Learn more about the land of the Dark Tower with exclusive bonus material!

A ballerina transformed into a vampire is captured by a government agency formed to battle the vampire threat in *Half Dead* by Barb Lien-Cooper, Park Cooper, & Jimmy Bott. Rather than destroy her, they convert the



vampiric Romany to their side, pairing her with Ian, one of the very few survivors of a vampire attack—and the fight is on!

Those Power Kids cross paths with the greenskinned goliath in *Hulk & Power Pack* #1 by Marc Sumerak, Paul Tobin, David Williams, & Chris Giarusso.

The *Legion of Monsters* series continues in Charlie Huston, Klaus Janson, & Ted McKeever's *Legion of Monsters: Man-Thing*.

Ash faces off against a very unexpected pack o' monsters in *Marvel Zombies/Army of Darkness*, a Marvel-Dynamite crossover series by John Layman, Fabiano Neves, & June Chung. Ash has faced legions of the undead before, but never like this...as he lands in the heart of New York just as the Zombie outbreak begins! And yes, it will have those zombified Marvel covers by Arthur Suydam.

In the aftermath of *Civil War*, prepare for the unveiling of a new team in *The Mighty Avengers* #1, by Brian Bendis & Frank Cho. They're supposed to be the greatest Avengers team ever, but who picked them?? And why?? And which A-list Avengers villain returns, revamped and reloaded for the ultimate revenge?

Michael Lent, Mike Raicht, Alex Sanchez, & Bong Dazo present the tale of an underwater secret that surfaces to make humanity its prey in *Prey: Origin of the Species*.

Joss Whedon's run on *Runaways* begins next month—but those of you who need to catch up on the backstory will have a chance to do so, thanks to the *Runaways Saga*.

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Mighty Avengers 1



Recapping the entire series to date, the Runaways' saga will be told by their youngest member, Molly Hayes. Molly's tale will be bookended by an original story by C.B. Cebulski & Humberto Ramos.

Learn all about the making of the next Spidey film in *The Spider-Man Chronicles: The Art & Making of Spider-Man 3* by Grant Curtis.

Reed Richards may be stuck in the world of the Squadron Supreme, but Nick Fury's not willing to write him off as a lost cause. He and the Ultimates plan to bring him back...by any means necessary. What could happen next? Find out in *Ultimate Power #4* by J. Michael Straczynski & Greg Land.

Ultimate Daredevil attempts to enlist Spider-Man in a crusade to bring down the Kingpin—permanently. But with his Aunt's life hanging by a thread and his serious girl problems...not to mention the new student at Midtown High...crime-busting may be the last thing on young Mr. Parker's mind. So what happens when the rest of Daredevil's new super-team shows up? Learn who stands with Peter—and who stands against him—in *Ultimate Spider-Man #106* by Brian Bendis & Mark Bagley.

The faceoff between Wolverine and Sabretooth continues in Jeph Loeb & Simone Bianchi's *Wolverine #52*. These sworn foes have been locked in an endless grudge match that goes back longer than either can remember -- or even imagine. The key to victory is eons old, and the first clue to understanding it lies in the fabled African kingdom of Wakanda, home of the Black Panther and Storm.

The secrets of Logan's son are revealed in Daniel Way & Steve Dillon's *Wolverine: Origins #12*. Intent on freeing his son from the secret society that has controlled him since birth, Logan has been scouring the earth to find him. Now that he's located and isolated his boy, it's time to make his move—but is the son walking into the trap...or the father?

Marvel collected editions for March include:

- *Civil War*, a trade paperback compilation of the seven-issue series by Mark Millar & Steve McNiven that redefines the Marvel Universe;
- *Civil War: Fantastic Four*, collecting FF #s 538-543;
- *Civil War: Amazing Spider-Man*, collecting

Ultimate Power 4



Amazing Spider-Man #s 532-538;

• *Civil War: Thunderbolts*, collecting *Thunderbolts* #s 101-105;

• *Civil War: Young Avengers & Runaways*, collecting the four-issue limited series;

• *Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man Volume 2: Mystery Date*, collecting *Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man* #s 11-16;

• *Marvel Masterworks: Doctor Strange Volume 3*, collecting *Doctor Strange* #s 169-179 and *The Avengers* #61;

• *Marvel Masterworks: Golden Age USA Comics Volume One*, collecting four almost-impossible-to-find classics from 1941;

• *Ms. Marvel Volume One: Best of the Best*, collecting the first five issues of the Brian Reed-Roberto De La Torre series, along with *Giant-Size Ms. Marvel* #1;

• *New Avengers Volume 4: The Collective*, a trade paperback edition of *New Avengers* #s 16-20;

• *New Excalibur Volume 2: Last Days of Camelot*, collecting *New Excalibur* #s 8-15;

• *Runaways Volume 7: Live Fast*, a digest-sized compilation of *Runaways* #s 19-24;

• *Spider-Man: Birth of Venom*, collecting the earliest appearances of the Venom, beginning with *Secret Wars* #8 and continuing through *Amazing Spider-Man Annual* #10;

• *Spider-Man: Saga of the Sandman*, featuring 176 pages of classic Spidey-Sandman confrontations;

• *Spider-Man Loves Mary Jane Volume One*, a hardcover compilation of the first 13 issues of the Sean McKeever-Takeshi Miyazawa series;

• *Ultimate Fantastic Four Volume 7: God War*, collecting *Ultimate FF* #s 33-38;

• *Ultimate Fantastic Four Volume 7: God War*, collecting *Ultimate FF* #s 33-38;

• *Ultimate Spider-Man Volume 8*, a hardcover collection of *Ultimate Spider-Man* #s 86-96 & *Annual* #s 1-2;

• *Ultimate Spider-Man: Clone Saga*, a premiere hardcover reprinting *Ultimate Spider-Man* #s 97-105 and the UltSpidey issue of *Marvel Spotlight*;

• *Ultimate Spider-Man: The Ultimate Collection Volume One*, a hefty trade paperback collecting the first thirteen issues of the Brian Bendis-Mark Bagley series;

• *Wolverine: Origins Volume 2—Savior*, a premiere hardcover collection of *Wolverine: Origins* #s 6-10;

• *Wolverine: Weapon X*, a premiere hardcover reprinting the Barry Windsor-Smith classic; and

• *Zombie*, collecting the miniseries by Mike Raicht & Kyle Hotz.

January's Top Twenty Comics

ACTION COMICS ANNUAL #10

Geoff Johns & Richard Donner (W); Art Adams, Joe Kubert, Pete Woods, Rags Morales, Kevin Maguire, Eric Wight, & Tony Daniel (A)

(DC NOV060186 \$3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Get up to speed on what's going on in Superman's world—and get a sneak peek at what the Man of Steel will be dealing with in future issues of *Action Comics*—in this all-star issue.

Why Should You Care?

Geoff Johns & Richard Donner are making *Action* the must-read Super-book—and once you see what they've got in store, you'll understand why!



ALL STAR BATMAN & ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER #5

Frank Miller (W); Jim Lee & Scott Williams (A)

(DC SEP060193 \$2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Batman's plan to transform Dick Grayson into a capable crimefighter continue... but the orphaned aerialist will have to make a difficult choice before he can truly become Robin, the Boy Wonder.

Why Should You Care?

After a hiatus of more than six months, Frank Miller & Jim Lee are back with the long-awaited next issue of their surprising look at the early days of the Dark Knight and his crimefighting partner. Sure, it's a long wait... but it's Frank Miller & Jim Lee, so you know you gotta check it out!

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ALL STAR SUPERMAN #6

Grant Morrison (W); Frank Quitely (A)

(DC JUL060145 \$2.99)

What's the Scoop?

The Man of Steel steps back from his super-heroic role to return to Smallville to mourn the loss of his adoptive father.

Why Should You Care?

Grant Morrison & Frank Quitely continue to produce the Superman book—if you're only going to read one title starring the original superhero in all his glory, this is the one!

ASHLEY WOOD'S D'AIRAIN ADVENTURE #1

Ashley Wood (W/A)

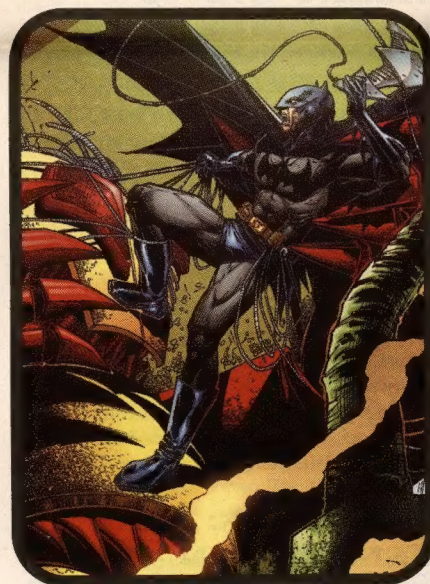
(IDW NOV063648 \$4.99)

What's the Scoop?

IDW delivers 32 no-ad pages filled with Ashley Wood adventure and wonderment, complete with a rotating cast of characters and intersecting, overlapping stories.

Why Should You Care?

Think of this one as *Ashley Wood's Comics & Stories*, complete with the distinctive blend of classic and cutting-edge that has defined Wood's work throughout his career.



BATMAN CONFIDENTIAL #2

Andy Diggle (W); & Whilce Portacio (A)

(DC NOV060173 \$2.99)

What's the Scoop?

When Batman learns who's behind the huge robot that's menacing Gotham City, Bruce Wayne heads off to Gotham City for his first face-to-face confrontation with Lex Luthor.

Why Should You Care?

While *All Star Batman & Robin* presents a non-continuity Dark Knight that might have been, Andy Diggle & Whilce Portacio offer an in-continuity look at the untold early exploits of the real DCU Dark Knight in this intense series.

CIVIL WAR #6

Mark Millar (W); Steve McNiven (A)

(Marvel AUG062033 \$2.99)

CIVIL WAR #7

Mark Millar (W); Steve McNiven (A)

(Marvel SEP062101 \$2.99)

What's the Scoop?

The secret of File 42! The ultimate confrontation between Captain America's forces and Iron Man's pro-Registration team! A dramatic expansion of the Civil War, involving virtually every superhuman on Earth! And the new direction of the Marvel Universe! Is that enough for ya?!

Why Should You Care?

If you don't want to be one of the few comic readers who *doesn't* know what's going on, you should regard the final installments of *Civil War* as must-haves.

CIVIL WAR: THE RETURN

Paul Jenkins (W); Tom Raney (A)

(Marvel NOV062268 \$2.99)

What's the Scoop?

The Sentry confronts his own inner demons as he faces his own future role in the Marvel Universe. Meanwhile, within the Negative Zone, the walls of 42 are pulled back to reveal one of the Marvelom's greatest heroes who's about to make his return to a very different world.

Why Should You Care?

If you thought that the final issue of *Civil War* was the wrapup of the whole event, think again—books like this make it clear that the ramifications of this event are going to resonate throughout the Marvelverse in all sorts of unpredictable ways.

CONAN & THE MIDNIGHT GOD #1

Joshua Dysart (W); Tone Rodriguez (A)

(Dark Horse NOV060012 \$2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Having gained a kingdom and a wife, is Conan ready to put down the sword to reign peacefully? Don't bet on it!



Why Should You Care?

Joshua Dysart & Tone Rodriguez, creators the videogame-tie-in *Age of Conan* comic that reached almost a half-a-million readers, make their *Conan* miniseries debut that focuses on the mature Conan's years as King of Aquilonia.

DESPERADOES: BUFFALO DREAMS #1

Jeff Mariotte (W); Alberto Dose (A)

(IDW NOV063663 \$3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Gideon Brood, Clay Parkhurst, and the rest of the Desperadoes return in a four-part horror-Western adventure that just might leave them buffaloed...

Why Should You Care?

No comic has blended Western drama and horror themes more adroitly than Jeff Mariotte's *Desperadoes*. Think of it as the comics version of a Reese's Peanut Butter Cup: two great tastes that go great together!



FALL OF CTHULHU #0

Michael Alan Nelson (W);

Jean Dzialowski (A)

(Boom NOV063396 \$3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Yeats hinted at it in "The Second Coming" when he wrote: "Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold / Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world / The blood-dimmed tide is loosed..." That tide crests in this series that expands on the horror concepts first given form by the incomparable H.P. Lovecraft.

Why Should You Care?

Forget today's blend of shock and gore that passes for horror—HPL wrote the real thing. If this series manages to tap into the feeling of unspeakable dread and foreboding that defined Lovecraft's work, it'll be a haunting experience indeed.

HELLBOY ANIMATED VOL 1: BLACK WEDDING TP

Jim Pascoe & Tad Stones (W); Nick Lacy & Fabio Laguna (A)

(Dark Horse SEP060025 \$6.95)

What's the Scoop?

Hellboy fans who don't get enough animated excitement from the *Hellboy Animated* DVD release can enjoy a second helping of sorts in this animation-style original volume featuring two self-contained stories—one

focusing on Liz Sherman and the BPRD and the other on Lobster Johnson and his influence on the young Hellboy.

Why Should You Care?

It may not be a new Mike Mignola book, but it is a new *Hellboy* book produced with Mignola's guidance and blessing—and we'll take more Hellboy pretty much any way we can get it!



HELMET OF FATE: IBIS THE INVINCIBLE #1

Tad Williams (W); Phil Winslade (A)
(DC NOV060202 \$2.99)

HELMET OF FATE: DETECTIVE CHIMP #1

Bill Willingham (W); Shawn McManus (A)
(DC NOV060203 \$2.99)

What's the Scoop?

There's a new Doctor Fate on the way... but before the Helmet of Fate settles on a new wearer, it's going to make the rounds to check out some intriguing possibilities! (A chimpanzee?...)

Why Should You Care?

Who'll be the latest hero to don the golden helmet? We don't know—but watching the "tryouts" promises to be fascinating!

JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #5

Brad Meltzer (W); Ed Benes (A)
(DC OCT060209 \$2.99; also available in a signed edition (OCT063392 \$49.99))

What's the Scoop?

The League begins to coalesce as Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman, Green Lantern, Black Canary, and Arsenal unite to confront the malevolent threat of a villain reborn.

Why Should You Care?

Brad Meltzer & Ed Benes return keep *League of America* to its A-Team glory, propelling the book at the top of everyone's must-read list.

JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA #2

Geoff Johns (W); Dale Eaglesham (A)
(DC NOV060224 \$2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Who's hunting down the descendants of the JSA? Is Maxine Hunkel destined to be the next victim? Is the team destined for disaster before they finalize their roster? Lotsa questions—and Geoff Johns & Dale Eaglesham have lots of answers!

Why Should You Care?

Johns never delivers a bad book—but the first issue of this series demonstrated that *Justice Society of America* is a real labor of love, and he's pulling out all the stops to give *Justice League* a run for the money as the best team title on the stands. (This is the sort of competition where *everyone* wins!) Even better, it looks like this book is going to play a key role in Johns' exploration of DC's multiverses—and that means it's a must-read for sure!



MYTHOS: GHOST RIDER

Paul Jenkins (W); Paolo Rivera (A)
(Marvel NOV062307 \$3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The complexities of the origins of the flame-headed motorcycle-riding hero are reconciled in this oneshot by Paul Jenkins & Paolo Rivera.

Why Should You Care?

Jenkins & Rivera have done a masterful job of blending the various multimedia origin tales of Marvel heroes in the earlier *Mythos* volumes, and this one follows the same path. With a *Ghost Rider* film set to roll into theaters in 2007, *Mythos: Ghost Rider* offers a great way for everyone to get up to speed on Johnny Blaze's back story.

SCALPED #1

Jason Aaron (W); R.M. Guéra (A)
(Vertigo/DC NOV060289 \$2.99)

What's the Scoop?

After more than a century as the underdogs, the Lakota Indians have found a way to get back at the white man—legally! Their weapons of choice? Cards, slot machines, and gaming tables—a casino coup. When Dash Bad Horse returns to the reservation as tribal cop, determined to clean things up... but that puts him at odds with a lot of people, including tribal leader Lincoln Red Crow...

Why Should You Care?

Vertigo continues its reinvention of the HBO of sophisticated comics drama with this gritty organized-crime saga set against the backdrop of a modern Indian Reservation, seasoned with liberal helpings of contemporary Native American culture.



SILENT WAR #1

David Hine (W); Roy Allan Martinez (A)
(Marvel NOV062316 \$2.99)

What's the Scoop?

The theft of the Terrigen Mists from the Inhumans led to a declaration of war at the end of *Son of M*—and now the opening salvos of that war hit hard in the Marvel Universe as Gorgon leads an attack on New York City, pitting the Inhumans against their former allies, the Fantastic Four.

Why Should You Care?

Civil wars, terrorist attacks, assaults on our shores... the Marvelverse isn't feeling particularly safe right now, is it? This *House of M-Son of M* inspired series shakes things up even more, expanding the superheroic conflicts to an international scale.

STAR TREK: NEXT GENERATION—THE SPACE BETWEEN #1

David Tischman (W); Casey Malone (A)
(IDW NOV063645 \$3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The planet Tigan-7 requests entry into the Federation, so the *Enterprise* is dispatched on what seems like a routine mission... but it proves anything but when Captain Picard and his crew are treated as hostile invaders by a planetary leadership that has no record of any such request to the Federation!

Why Should You Care?

Star Trek is back, just in time for the 20th anniversary of *ST:ING*. Even better, this is just the beginning of IDW's *Star Trek* franchise that will see the addition of an *Original Series* comic later on in 2007!

SUPERMAN & BATMAN VS ALIENS & PREDATORS #1

Mark Schultz (W); Ariel Olivetti (A)
(DC NOV060195 \$5.99; also available in a signed edition (NOV063542 \$39.99))

What's the Scoop?

Just in case the title didn't give it away—Superman and Batman face off against the double-threat of Aliens and Predators in this two-issue limited series produced in conjunction with Dark Horse Comics.

Why Should You Care?

Yeah, this is what you call "high concept"—but you gotta admit, it's a concept that you can't pass by without stopping to take a look!

WHO WANTS TO BE A SUPERHERO

Stan Lee (W); Will Conrad (A)
(Dark Horse AUG060020 \$3.50)

What's the Scoop?

Feedback, the winner of that cheesy "reality-TV" competition (I'm not sure in what alternate reality this could possibly be considered reality, though), gets his own comic book.

Why Should You Care?

Can Stan Lee & Will Conrad actually translate this low-budget hero into a comic book star? Probably not—but millions of people had fun watching this on television, so you can be sure that a lot of them are going to want to see the comic book version as well! And there's a certain irresistible "train wreck" element to the whole thing that makes you just have to take a look, isn't there?



WOLVERINE #50

Jeph Loeb (W); Simone Bianchi (A)
(Marvel NOV062327 \$3.99; also available signed by Jeph Loeb (NOV063534 \$49.99) or by Simone Bianchi (NOV063535 \$49.99))

What's the Scoop?

It's the grudge match that Wolverine fans have waited on for years as Logan takes on Sabretooth in a brutal battle royale. And if that's not enough conflict for you, the back-up story, illustrated by Ed McGuinness, finds Wolverine facing off against frequent adversary the Hulk!

Why Should You Care?

Jeph Loeb & Simone Bianchi kick off their run on the series with a crowd-pleasing confrontation that sets the stage for major things to come. (And since it appears that *Damon Lindelof's Ultimate Wolverine-Hulk* series is on perpetual hold, this may be your only chance to see these two face off in the foreseeable future!)

Collected Cool:

January's Best
Reprint Volumes

EC ARCHIVES: TWO FISTED TALES VOL 1 HC

(Gemstone NOV063594 \$49.95)

The stunning full-color presentation of the entire EC canon continues with this volume compiling the first six issues of the landmark adventure series, featuring work by Harvey Kurtzman, Al Feldstein, Johnny Craig, Wally Wood, Jack Davis, John Severin, & Will Elder.

GREEN LANTERN ARCHIVES VOL 6 HC

(DC SEP060227 \$49.99)

The comprehensive reprinting of the *John Broome & Gil Kane's Silver Age Green Lantern* continues with this volume compiling #s 39-47—and that includes the classic #40, which features the first Hal Jordan-Alan Scott team-up in a tale that laid much of the groundwork for *Crisis on Infinite Earths*.



MARVEL MASTERWORKS: ATLAS ERA HEROES VOL 1 HC

(Marvel NOV062347 \$54.99)

Before the Marvel Age began in 1961, *Stan Lee* made an ill-fated attempt at bringing back Marvel's heroes. Now that abortive effort is presented in this hardcover collecting the 1950's issues of *Marvel Boy*, *Astonishing*, and *Young Men*, featuring Captain America, the Human Torch, Marvel Boy, and others.

Comic Shop News



MARVEL VISIONARIES: JOHN BUSCEMA HC

(Marvel OCT062210 \$34.99)

Other than Jack Kirby, no artist more visually defined Marvel than did John Buscema. This book offers an overview of Buscema's amazing career that spanned five decades.

NEIL GAIMAN & CHARLES VESS'S STARDUST HC

(Vertigo/DC SEP060317 \$39.99)

At long last, Vertigo offers an oversized hardcover edition of the fantasy tale by Neil Gaiman & Charles Vess. Heck, you'd think there was a movie in the works or something like that!...

SHOWCASE PRESENTS BRAVE & BOLD BATMAN TEAMUPS VOL 1

(DC OCT060228 \$16.99)

Collecting *The Brave and The Bold* #59, #64, #67, #69-71 & #74-87, including Neal Adams' classic Batman-Green Arrow meeting.

SHOWCASE PRESENTS JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA VOL 2 TP

(DC OCT060229 \$16.99)

Collecting *Justice League of America* #17-36, including the first two JLA-JSA crossover story arcs.



Hot Commodities: January's Hottest Merchandising & Collectibles

CLASSIC PEANUTS CHARACTER #3 LINUS STATUE

(Dark Horse OCT060091 \$39.95)

Dark Horse continues the rollout of their latest line of *Peanuts* syroco-styled statue collectibles with Lucy's little brother. If there was ever a property suited for the rugged syroco-style approach, *Peanuts* is it!

JSA DR. MIDNITE ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct JUN060276 \$19.99)

JSA GOLDEN AGE ATOM ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct JUN060278 \$24.99)

JSA HAWKGIRL ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct JUN060275 \$19.99)

JSA HOURMAN ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct JUN060277 \$19.99)

JSA MR. TERRIFIC ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct JUN060274 \$19.99)

JSA ACTION FIGURES SET

(DC Direct JUN060272 \$79.99)

The JSA makes the jump to the third dimension with the release of this action figure set featuring a mix of Golden Age and modern JSA characters, including a Golden-Age Atom two-figure pack featuring both versions of the diminutive hero.

WOMEN OF THE DC UNIVERSE: POWER GIRL BUST

(DC Direct JUN060280 \$45.00)

The latest release in the line of statues designed by Adam Hughes, the pulchritudinous Power Girl is sure to sell out in record time.

MYSTERIO STATUE

(Bowen OCT064425 \$180.00)

Randy Bowen presents the enigmatic Mysterio in all his Ditkoesque glory.

FYI: Great Additions to Your Reference Library

BEST OF THE HARVEYVILLE FUN TIMES SC

(Lulu NOV064100 \$29.95)

The first major book on Harvey Comics' history, *Best of Harveyville Fun Times* includes a generous assortment of articles from the Harvey fanzine, spotlighting such characters as Casper, Richie Rich, Hot Stuff, and Sad Sack. Learn more about some of the most famous characters not currently gracing comic shop racks.

Check 'Em Out: Books You **Should** Be Reading

FATHOM KIANI #0

(Aspen NOV063312 \$2.50)

Continuing from the pages of *Fathom* comes a story of the Blue warrior known only as Kiani. This special zero issue features an original prefatory tale, sketches, concept drawings, and more.

GHOST RIDER FINALE

(Marvel NOV062296 \$3.99)

Forget *Daredevil: The Target*—here's a book that's *really* late (although that's not the fault of the creative team!). This special issue presents the story originally intended to appear in *Ghost Rider* #94, almost ten years ago—but the title was cancelled and the story was shelved... until now!

JLA CLASSIFIED #32

(DC NOV060222 \$3.99)

Dan Slott tries his hand at the JLA with this five-parter illustrated by Dan Jurgens & Trevor Scott. When lifetime loser Dareen Proffitt finds a way to imprison he League's master villain Dr. Destiny and wrests control of the reality-warping Materiopticon, his luck seems likely to change. Which is bad for the JLA and the DCU as we know it!

MANHUNTER #27

(DC NOV060229 \$2.99)

Don't miss the biggest development yet in the case of the United States vs. Wonder Woman!

"...measures up to any summer blockbuster."

—TIME OUT NEW YORK

"DMZ is incredible."

—CHICAGO SUN TIMES

"Wood and Burchielli gut-wrenchingly portray the chaotic reality of life in a war zone."

—WASHINGTON POST

"The dramatic images recall the nightly news, and stories of war-zone life ring true."

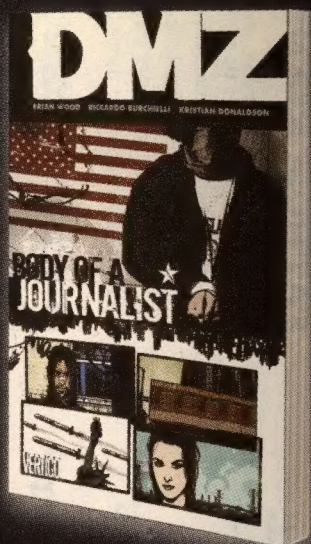
—ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

"Looking for the next FABLES or Y: THE LAST MAN? Look no further than DMZ."

—WIZARD MAGAZINE

"Look out Willingham and Vaughan, Brian Wood has made DMZ one of the top three best Vertigo books."

—IGN.COM



Written by
BRIAN WOOD

Illustrated by
RICCARDO BURCHIELLI

DMZ

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